LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. **(original)** A closure apparatus comprising:

a base comprising a post;

a lever connected to said base; and

a cover connected to said base, said cover comprising an annular structure that extends around said post;

wherein said annular structure is adapted to detach from said cover when sufficient force is applied to said cover such that said annular structure remains on said post.

2. **(original)** The closure apparatus of claim 1 wherein:

said base has a wall defining an opening; and

said lever has a sealing portion that forms a seal with said wall of said base when said closure apparatus is in a closed position.

3. **(original)** The closure apparatus of claim 1 wherein said lever is hinged to said base.

4. **(original)** The closure apparatus of claim 1 wherein:

said base has a wall defining an opening; and

an upward force on a rearward portion of said lever is adapted to cause a frontward portion of said lever to depress into a container such that an opening is created in said container beneath said opening of said base.

5. **(original)** The closure apparatus of claim 4 wherein said rearward portion of said lever is longer that said frontward portion of said lever to facilitate the creation of said opening in said container.

6. **(original)** The closure apparatus of claim 1 wherein:

said base has a wall defining an opening; and

said lever has a rearward portion and a frontward portion, said frontward portion extending over said opening in said base when said closure apparatus is in a closed position;

wherein said rearward portion of said lever is longer than said frontward portion of said lever.

7. **(original)** The closure apparatus of claim 6 wherein said rearward portion of said lever extends beyond said base.

8. **(original)** The closure apparatus of claim 1 wherein said post has a lower portion and an upper portion, said upper portion having a cross-sectional area greater than a cross-sectional area of said lower portion.

9. **(original)** The closure apparatus of claim 8 wherein said annular structure has an opening of a cross-sectional area that is greater than said cross-sectional area of said lower portion of said post and less than said cross-sectional area of said upper portion of said post such that said annular structure remains on said post when said sufficient force is applied to said cover.

10. **(original)** The closure apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a structure to limit rotation of said lever.

11. **(original)** The closure apparatus of claim 10 wherein said structure is a backstop formed at a rear portion of an opening in said base.

12. **(original)** The closure apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a spout formed on said base at a pouring edge.

13. **(original)** The closure apparatus of claim 1 wherein when said closure apparatus is in an open position, an opening in said base defines an unobstructed pour

zone, said pour zone having a width dimension of at least about ½ inch at its widest point and a length dimension of at least about ½ inch at its longest point.

14. **(original)** The closure apparatus of claim 1 wherein when said apparatus is in an open position, an opening in said base defines an unobstructed pour zone, said pour zone having a width dimension of at least about 5/8 inch at its widest point and a length dimension of at least about 3/4 inch at its longest point.

15. **(original)** The closure apparatus of claim 1 wherein said lever includes a beak, at least about one eighth inch in length, for penetrating a container.

16. **(original)** The closure apparatus of claim 1 wherein said annular structure is a ring.

17. **(original)** A closure apparatus comprising:

a base comprising a post, said base further comprising a wall that defines an opening;

a lever rotatably secured to said base such that an upward force on a rearward portion of said lever is adapted to cause said lever to rotate about an axis thereby disengaging a frontward portion of said lever from said wall of said base; and

a cover rotatably connected to said base such that said cover has an axis of rotation approximately perpendicular to said axis of rotation of said lever, said cover comprising an annular structure extending around said post;

wherein said annular structure is adapted to detach from said cover when said cover is rotated away from said base such that said annular structure remains on said post.

18. **(original)** The closure apparatus of claim 17 wherein said annular structure is a ring.

19. **(currently amended)** A container comprising:

a substantially rectangular surface; and

a closure apparatus secured to said substantially rectangular surface near an edge thereof, said closure apparatus comprising:

a base having an opening; and

a lever rotatably connected to said base, said lever having a plane of rotation that is substantially perpendicular to the ~~an~~ edge ~~of said substantially rectangular surface~~, said lever having a proximal portion and a distal portion relative to said edge ~~of said substantially rectangular surface~~;

wherein an upward force on said distal portion of said lever causes ~~is adapted to cause~~ said proximal portion ~~of said lever~~ to depress into said substantially rectangular surface such that an opening is created in said substantially rectangular surface beneath said opening of said base.

20. **(original)** The container of claim 19 wherein said distal portion of said lever is longer than said proximal portion of said lever to facilitate the creation of said opening in said substantially rectangular surface.